

## Amendment

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method, suitable for stand off analysis of a sample comprising one or more chemical and/or biological warfare agents of low volatility, said method comprising:
  - (i) using an excitation means to vaporise the sample thereby producing a vapour plume of molecular species; and
  - (ii) using an analytical means to analyse the molecular species within the vapour plume wherein the analytical means analyses the molecular emission spectra of the vapour plume and is provided with means to enable it to receive said spectra for stand off analysis.
2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the excitation means is a laser.
3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the laser is operated at a fixed wavelength.
4. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the laser has a power of greater than 2 W, ~~preferably greater than 5 W, and more preferably greater than 10 W.~~
5. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the laser has a power of less than 150 W, ~~preferably less than 50 W, more preferably less than 20 W.~~
6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the laser is operated as continuous laser beam.
7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the laser is a carbon dioxide laser.
8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the method comprises the use of only a single excitation means.
9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the vapour plume is hotter than the surrounding atmosphere by at least 0.1K.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 9 wherein the vapour plume is hotter than the surrounding atmosphere by 1K.

11. (original) A method according to Claim 10 wherein the vapour plume is hotter than the surrounding atmosphere by 5K.

12. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 9 wherein the analytical means is an infrared spectrometer, ~~preferably a Fourier transform infrared spectrometer.~~

13. (previously presented) A kit suitable for stand off analysis of a sample comprising one or more chemical and/or biological warfare agents of low volatility, said kit comprising:

- (i) an excitation means arranged such that it can be used to vaporise the sample thereby producing a vapour plume of molecular species;
- (ii) an analytical means arranged to analyse the emission spectra of the molecular species within the vapour plume; and
- (iii) means associated with the analytical means to enable said analytical means to receive the emission spectra from the vapour plume.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus suitable for stand off analysis of a sample comprising one or more chemical and/or biological warfare agents of low volatility, said apparatus comprising:

- (i) an excitation means arranged such that it can be used to vaporise the sample thereby producing a vapour plume of molecular species;
- (ii) an analytical means arranged to analyse the emission spectra of the molecular species within the vapour plume; and
- (iii) means associated with the analytical means to enable said analytical means to receive the emission spectra from the vapour plume.